

From: Magister
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Settlement

304 S Lowry
Stillwater Ok, 74074
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Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

To whom it may concern;

Though I am a laymen regarding this trial, I have been following it avidly in the media, and I have been watching the settlement process with horror. In spite of the courts' findings that Microsoft is a monopoly which has abused its monopolistic powers, a settlement is being reached which does virtually nothing to deal with either their past crimes or to keep them from committing future crimes.

From my point of view, Microsofts monopoly combined with its unwillingness to provide information about its products which many consumers have no choice but to use due to the fact that Windows is the only operating system which will work with certain commercial software which may be necessary for the completion of a task, especially by those not intimately familiar with computers and the methods to program and configure them, has significantly harmed the market.

Their willingness to alter their API and drivers models, often without providing full details on their modification makes it difficult for developpers to create software or drivers which they know will be compatible with future versions of windows. Yet at the same time, Windows ME, 2000, and to an even greater degree, enforce compliance with these not fully disclosed and arbitrary driver models or "warn of impending doom" if the user attempts to install drivers which have not been certified and digitally signed by microsoft as being compliant.

It is my opinion, that at the very least, Microsoft should be forced to avoid many of these past transgressions by providing full disclosure. I am not an extremist and do not advocate some peoples suggestion that Microsoft should be forced to expose the source code of Windows, however, I do strongly support forcing Microsoft to fully document its APIs, driver models, and file formats.

Sincerely

Timothy Wiseman

TAW.